

## *Marylanders for Patient Rights*

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### **MARYLANDERS FOR PATIENT RIGHTS REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT ON HB490 Residential Service Agencies – Employee Registry**

Marylanders for Patient Rights is a leading advocacy group for patients in our state. We strongly believe that HB490 is vitally important to the health and well-being of patients and their caregivers, and we urge you to provide a favorable report.

The number of trained home care workers is decreasing as the need for assistance increases in our aging population. The over 60 population is projected to increase by 40% between 2015 to 2030, yet we lack a clear idea of the number of trained home health care workers that are available in Maryland. I was especially alarmed to learn that Maryland's Medicaid wait list for home care and community services exceeds 31,000 people, with Maryland having the third longest wait list in the country.

Establishment of a Registry of home health care workers will help to address this urgent problem. It will allow Maryland to assess and manage the growing need for well-trained home care workers, as well as increasing transparency for patients, Residential Service Agencies (RSA), and state agencies.

The Registry will include data that are basic and easy to provide by the RSAs: employee name and identification, job title, gender, address, employer, and completed training or certifications. The provision of these data by the RSAs will only require a modest amount of time, yet it will yield vital information to the Maryland Department of Health for data-driven policy development.

An Employee Registry home health care workers is a fundamental and urgent need for Maryland. Please provide a favorable report on HB490, and support Maryland caregivers and their patients.

Thank you,

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